CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A computer-implemented method of managing isochronous data channels

2   in a computer system comprising a plurality of nodes interconnected by a plurality of point-

3   to-point links, the method comprising the steps of:

4   establishing an isochronous channel within the computer system;

5   configuring one of said plurality of nodes as a sender client of the isochronous

6   channel and at least one of said plurality of nodes as receiver clients of the isochronous

7   channel; and

8   transmitting isochronous data over said isochronous channel from said sender client

9   to said receiver client.

1   2.   The computer-implemented method of claim 1 wherein said computer

2   system including a memory and said step of configuring comprises:

3   establishing a linked list of buffers within said memory, said linked list of buffers

4   managing said isochronous data by temporarily storing said isochronous data, after

5   transmission by said sender client.

3.   The computer-implemented method of claim 2 wherein said computer

system including a central processing unit and wherein step of transmitting comprises:

sending an isochronous data packet from said sender client over said isochronous

channel; and

10   generating an interrupt, the interrupt causing said central processing unit to execute

computer readable instructions such that said central processing unit facilitates the transfer

of said isochronous data packet to a plurality of storage locations within said linked list of

buffers.

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1   4.   The computer-implemented method of claim 1 wherein said computer

2   system including a memory and said step of configuring comprises:

3   establishing a linked list of buffers within said memory, said linked list of buffers

4   managing said isochronous data by temporarily storing said isochronous data prior to

5   transmission by said sender client.

1   5.   A computer system comprising:

2   a plurality of nodes, each of said plurality of nodes having an associated local host,

3   said plurality of nodes being interconnected by a plurality of point-to-point communication

4   links, said communication links supporting an isochronous data channel within said

5   computer system,

6   wherein one of said local hosts is a central processing unit having an associated

7   memory, the memory comprising a plurality of channel buffers arranged as a linked list, the

8   channel buffers being associated with the isochronous data channel.